

CLEAN COPY OF REPLACEMENT CLAIMSIN THE CLAIMS:

1. (twice amended) A ferrule comprising:

at least one optical fiber bore associated with a front surface and a rear surface of said ferrule;  
first and second body portions extending at least partially between said surfaces and having respective widths, a juncture of said body portions comprising an interface in the form of a parting line, said parting line and said optical fiber bore extending longitudinally at least partially between said front surface and said rear surface, and said parting line defining an offset of at least about 50 microns between said first and second body portions.

18. (amended) A ferrule comprising:

at least one optical fiber bore extending from a front surface to a rear surface of said ferrule;  
a shaft portion defining exterior surfaces of said ferrule, said exterior surfaces at least partially extending longitudinally between said front and rear surfaces; and  
a width transition, said width transition extending longitudinally along a portion of said ferrule shaft portion, said width transition comprising a width offset.